

# RECKLESS RALPH'S DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers..Pub.by RALPH F. CUMMINGS, Pleasant Street, Grafton, Mass., U.S.A.  
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FRANK MERRIWELL AT FARDALE

By Bob Smeltzer

At last we are coming into our own, brother collectors.

What do you think of this ? "TIP TOP" stories being reprinted in a Philadelphia newspaper. Yop! it's a fact. Our loved tales of bygone days are good enough to tempt the big newspaper editor to reprint them! If that don't mean a big BOOST for our cause, I am dumb as a toadstool, and then some.

The series began on Monday, Feb. 3rd, and you boys who want copies for your scrapbook had better get a hustle on before they are all gone. Yes sirree!

And each installment is illustrated with a "cut". For instance, in the first installment we see our brave and true Frank Merriwell grabbing a hold of one guy—who is he?? None other than Bart Hodge, as we see by his handbag with the initials thereon, HB, which surely stands for BART HODGE, as you will agree.

Beneath this cut: "A hand gripped Hodge by the shoulder, and swung him around face to face with another boy, about his own age."

The title, as I said before, is "FRANK MERRIWELL AT FARDALE" by GILBERT PATTEN—the Original "Burt L. Standish", Creator of "Frank and Dick Merriwell"; the sub-title, "Bart



Hodge's Cruelty to Dog, and Little Tad, Resented by Our Hero-Three Boys and a Dog."

Then it goes on to tell us who Burt L. Standish was, and IS:

"The creator of the Frank Merriwell stories and the author of this series, wrote 900 complete 20,000 word novels about this all-time, all-American hero, during an 18 year period.

Burt L. Standish made Frank the idol of the nation's youth; the most courageous, clean-living, right-thinking boy of all times; noted for his honesty, devotion, sportsmanship, and famed as the greatest athlete in college history.

The RECORD brings back Frank Merriwell, and with him the old gang; the bully, Bert Hodge, the lovable Barney Malley, and later on, the beautiful INZA BURRAGE-just the good old FARDALE Crowd."

Take a look at the illustration of the second installment; Frank is rubbing himself down with a rough towel, as a chap looks into his room, and what does he say to the intruder? Let's see, it's just like this:

"You're as welcome," said Frank, "as a certified check. Take a chair and be comfortable." Well, pards, that's something, and it is something FINE, you bet.

Really pards, and you are all that, I fell over this, just like a chap would fall over a log in the woods while hunting, but did my eyes BULGE ?? What I mean to say is that I do not get the RECORD day by day, but the other day in reading a copy in a friend's home, my eyes fell upon this series of Frank Merriwell stories. Henceforth I set out to get all issues. This is going to be fine for my scrapbook.

Also, it is going to be a heap bigger and better than that for it will make us ALL



sit up and take notice of the Tip Top Weekly. As it is, I lack a few numbers of the run from 1 to about 800, but I'll get them, and CHERISH them. You bet I shall.

As a youth, reading dime novels, I did not care for Tip Top at first; they seemed too tame for me, but my brother Harry, who is still a KEEN admirer of Frank and Dick Morriwell, showed me that I was all wrong.

The first time Tip Top was boosted to me, was years ago in a little hick-town railway station. Luke Molan was his name, and he read them week by week, and he told me how good they were, but I was then reading Old Cap Collier-Golden Hours-Happy Days-etc. Good old Luke. I call him "old" for he is about my own age-how I liked to listen to the telegraph messages coming in, and he would tell me what it was all about. He would be lonely a'nights, and I'd go up to chat the hours away. Yes, he had stacks of them, but at that time I did not think them up to my standard, But I do now. You bet I do.

Sit in on an evening; take a TIP TOP and start reading it, and I'll warrant you'll never leave off until the end.

And those letters to Tip Top Weekly, did you ever read them over? Why you could read between the lines that Burt L. Standish was making better youth, from the reading of his tales. Never an unclean thought put down on paper; everything to uplift, to make his readers better folks as the years rolled on.

Gee, I could write, and write, and write, and I am sure that everything I have said, goes with you--finally; get agoing on your Tip Top set; fill in the missing numbers.

Brothers, what does this mean to you and me? Simply this: A REVIVAL OF INTEREST IN DIME NOVELS.

Tell you why this is going to be a great



big impetus to our cause. The Philadelphia Record has a world-wide circulation. All the big city papers WATCH what the others print, which means that soon there will appear in the other newspapers of outstanding importance, similar articles on dime novels.

Mebbe we are coming along SLOW, but like the TURTLE in Aesop's Fables, we are coming along SURE as the sun rises in the morning and sets at nightfall... So, can you blame me for leaving out a big broad WHICOPEE, when my gaze upon the first installment of this Serial, which began, as I have stated, on February 3rd ?

It will surely make a big "impress" on the readers who are middle-aged or beyond that, for our memories linger on and on, to boyhood days and years.

Finally, I suggest that you, one and all, get a set of these articles: 2¢ per copy and I suppose about 1¢ additional for postage. Then paste them into your Dime Novel Scrap Book. Gee, you ought to see the wealth of stuff I have, in this respect; it will fill up two or three big scrap books, right now. Also, I hope this article of mine, will cause you to complete that set of Tip Tops, for the simple reason that Tip Top is a worth while novel. Why, pards, I've never finished a story without being refreshed and invigorated with the straight from the shoulder philosophy which our good friend, Burt L. Standish, always ladled out for us. So, LONG LIVE THE KING, Mr. Patton, long live the tales of his beloved characters.

I'd be glad to hear from any brother who has enjoyed reading this article.



## OLD KING BRADY

By G.H. Cordier

## Chapter Two.

Besides his novels Daugherty was noted as a numismatist. From boyhood up, he was a collector of rare coins, and was always interested in numismatics. At one time he had the largest collection of copper coins in America. He was also the author of leading textbook on the United States coinage of copper money. This hobby of his, he made use of, in many of his stories. Two of them in particular; The writer calls to mind; one entitled The Collar of Death and the other, The House of Skulls; both in secret service. And there were others that the writer read in The N.Y. Detective Library. In the first story, a young man is lured into the power of brutal criminals, thru his interest in old coins; and in the other, a hideous monstrosity is tracked to his lair, thru his desire to add to the number of his collection. Of the two classes of the stories, those that first appeared in The Boys of New York, and the stories in Secret Service; the writer, though he clearly loves them both, prefers the latter, for the reason that in the shorter tales in Secret Service, Daugherty made use of his particular style of basing his story on real facts; and as stated in the Tribune article, giving accurate descriptions of the people and country in which the action of the story is supposed to take place. All Daugherty's stories are readable, and many of them, highly interesting for that very reason. The little bits of local color are very entertaining, and add much to the interest of the narrative; when the reader, is taken in the story, to some little known traction of our own, or some foreign country. It was Edgar Allen Poe who, in one of his essays, pronounced in favor of



"The Short Prose Tale", and the writer heartily agrees with him. However, his preference is for the shorter stories in Secret Service. To give an illustration taken from a story entitled, "The Bandits' Gold", the scene of which is laid in the Southwest.

(To be continued)

### SOMETHING OF INTEREST.

GREATEST OF ALL WOLF-KILLERS GIVES UP JOB. Remarkable Exploits of Hunter Bill Caywood, who wiped out the notorious Cattle-Slayers, "Old Rags", "Gray Terror", "Greenhorn" who now Retires with 2000 Scalps to his Credit.

(Copied from recent newspaper supplement by Bob Smoltzer). There is a picture of Bill, an old-fashioned print, showing an attack by hunger-crazed wolves, upon a lumberman and his team; also reproduction of an old engraving by H.C. Bispham, depicting a group of hungry wolves attacking a deer. Space here does not permit a recital of the complete text matter of this thrilling article, which is something to set the blood a'tingle, for no animal is so bloodthirsty and so persistent, as a wolf, spurred on by a gnawing belly craving for flesh and blood.

It seems to me that the opening paragraph is a good "resume" of Bill's activities, and the big job he had upon his hands-so here goes:

"Bill Caywood, greatest wolf-hunter in history, has retired after twenty years of Government service, trapping, poisoning, and shooting wolves in the Northwest. Probably no human being knows as much about wolves, as Wm. H. Caywood, who has snuffed out the lives of some 2000 ferocious raiders of sheep and cattle ranches; killers of horses and destroyers of antelope, deer, and other animals



of the West. Caywood has settled down to a life of retirement in his Colorado home, and his reminiscences of his life in the open, matching his wits against the cunning of the wolfpacks, gives a picture of American frontier life which will never be known again."

You will be interested in knowing the circumstances of the three famous killers meeting their fate. "Old Rags" was trapped, yet notwithstanding the heavy weight at the end of the chain, advanced slowly upon Caywood, whose rifle refused to work, until the animal was twenty feet away, when a hard pull on the trigger sent a death-dealing bullet into his onery heart.. "Gray Terror" was also trapped, but just as forceious in his final effort to save himself; but Bill's aim was unerring, and another bad wolf "bit the dust..." "Greenhorn", goaded on by pangs of starvation, first sniffed and scorned the poisoned bait, but he could not resist the morsel, and coming back, he ate his fill, and thus ended the last of the most widely known wolf-terrors of that part of the country.

Boys, I am sure you have read many tales of encounters with wolves in the early days. I know I have read many a one-so I hope this recital will be of interest to you; reminiscing on the days of the old frontier.

ILLUSTRATION IN ORIGINAL ISSUE.

The original issue of this reprint, had, on the front cover, an old cut from a Frank Reade Library issue, depicting Frank Reade's Steam Man in a race with a steam locomotive.

Beneath the cut was the following:

"'Member the race we had with Frank Reade way back in the early '90's ? Heep-la, them were the days. This cut was borrowed from



Frank T. Fries, of Crrville, Ohio, for this issue. Write Frank for your wants, for he has 'em ! "

#### ALSO IN THE ORIGINAL EDITION.

Reckless Ralph, the publisher was offering his 1936 Dime Novel Catalogue for \$1.00 which also contained fine articles on Robert DeWitt-Dime Novel Values- Novel Data- etc.

J.P. Guinen, of Little Rock, Ark., was asking for certain numbers of Tip Tops.

Leonard Loughter of Brockton, Mass. was looking for: Old Tousey-Beadle-Westbrook-and Street & Smith catalogs.

Charles Austin of Phila., offered Beadle and other RARE novels for sale.

Ralph Smith of Lawrence, Mass. offered his Happy Hours Magazine No. 66, containing an article on "The Great 5¢ Wide Awake Library" by Roy Patterson.

Charles S. Woodward of So. Ashburnham, Mass. listed 63 different issues of Pluck & Luck for sale, or trade for: Frank Reades-Old Cap Colliers-Nicket Libraries-Boys Star-Beadle Dimes and Half-Dimes-Old Log Cabin-New York Detective-Young Sleuth-Wide Awakes-and many others.

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This Reprint, being in Mimeograph, there is a lack of space, for reproducing all the above ads in complete text.

Also, the reprint is 29 years after the first issue of this number, and the offers made are of course obsolete.